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Murre orphan in Berkeley backyard, Sept. 7. —Photo by George Homem

## MURRE ORPHAN IN BERKELEY HILLS

A young Murre with oil-soaked feathers was rescued from the east shore of San Francisco Bay by Jim Rasmussen and his son Chris on September 1st. They carried the bedraggled bird to their backyard in the Berkeley hills, where they used butter to clean the oil from his feathers. Mrs. Rasmussen fed small pieces of raw fish to the Murre, who recovered his strength in a few days. He enjoyed swimming pool privileges in the children's plastic pool. Waddling as fast as possible, the friendly orphan followed his "foster parents" around the garden.

## NOVEMBER MEETING

Dennis Reinhardt, new executive director of Canyon Ranch will be our speaker at the regular meeting of the Golden Gate Audubon Society on **Thursday, November 14, at 7:30 p.m.** in the Rotary Natural Science Center, Lakeside Park, Oakland.

A no-host dinner will begin at 6:30 at Lovely's Buffet, 336 Grand Avenue at Perkins Street, one block from the Natural Science Center. Visitors are welcome. —MRS. PHYLLIS ZWEIGART, *Program Chairman*.

## NOVEMBER FIELD TRIPS

**Saturday, November 2,** (as announced in *October Gull*) Palo Alto Salt Marsh to study waterfowl and shorebirds. Meet at **9 a.m.** at the duck pond near the Palo Alto Yacht Harbor. Take Embarcadero Road East off Bayshore Freeway 101. The fauna and flora of this area are described in *Exploring Our Baylands* by Diane Conradson, a \$2 paperback published by the Palo Alto Chamber of Commerce, 725 University Ave., Palo Alto, 94301. Leader, Ted Chandik, 327-4575, Palo Alto. Bring lunch.

**Saturday, November 16,** a morning trip to Lake Merritt, Oakland, for beginners. Meet **9 a.m.** at the Rotary Natural Science Center, Lakeside Park, at Bellevue and Perkins. Leader, Paul Covell, Oakland Park Naturalist.

Suggested areas to visit in November and throughout the winter:

National Wildlife Refuges near Willows and Gridley to observe ducks, geese and swans. Checklists are available at these refuges. The Sacramento Wildlife Refuge is 7 miles south of Willows and covers 10,800 acres. In winter this refuge attracts a large part of the Pacific Flyway waterfowl population. Motel reservations in Willows should be made in advance during the hunting season.

Save **Saturday, December 7,** for a field trip to Bodega Bay.

Observers and recorders are needed for the forthcoming Christmas counts: **Tomaes Bay on December 28, Drake's Bay on December 29,** and **Oakland on January 1.** If you can help with any of these Christmas censuses please write Raymond Higgs, 3501 Fillmore St., San Francisco, CA 94123. —MRS. VALERIA G. DaCOSTA, *Field Trips Chairman*.

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**NATIVE PLANT SALE — NOVEMBER 9**

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Native plants for your garden or for gifts may be purchased from the California Native Plant Society on **Saturday, November 9, from 1 to 5 p.m.** in the Brazilian Room, Tilden Park, overlooking the Eastbay Regional Parks Botanic Garden. Do you need ferns? Cacti and succulents? Conifers? Flowering shrubs? Shade-loving plants? Drought-resistant species? Deciduous trees or shrubs for autumn color? Rare bulbs? Alpines? Seeds? Bonsai? No nursery has such a variety of native plants available; this annual sale is a fine opportunity to buy California plants at low prices from a non-profit organization. Income from this sale helps the California Native Plant Society in its conservation work. For further information phone Mrs. August Frugé, 526-9771, or Mrs. Scott Fleming, 848-3455.

**COVEL'S CONSERVATION CORNER**

This column I begin under a cocoanut palm, while Mynahs gurgle overhead and delicate Barred Doves peck around my feet. Two weeks vacationing in our "Pacific Paradise" may have temporarily dimmed my perspective of mainland conservation problems, but we'll return to them long before you read this! Hawaii also has critical wildlife and open space preservation problems, which we don't yet feel qualified to discuss. We have noted with surprise the number of public state-owned beach parks, spent a day in Volcanic National Park on the isle of Hawaii, and another day in Kauai's State Parks extending from incredible Waimea Canyon and its Tropicbirds up into the summit rain forests where red liwi swung on passion vine and ohia.

Maui's Kanaha Pond near the Kahului Airport, besides providing a home for Black-necked Stilts and winter stopover for Golden Plover, Turnstones, Shovellers and Pintail, is a rendezvous for migrant as well as local Audubonites, we found. But this precious wildlife oasis has been threatened by "developers", too. Mainland Audubonites who visit and thrill over this refuge and other similar places in Hawaii should help their island friends to preserve them! (Perhaps a letter to the Hawaiian Audubon Society or to some public official explaining how such a refuge or park attracted you to that particular island or community.)

Another bird pond closer to home — little Crespi Pond near Asilomar — was the subject of an S.O.S. from Monterey Peninsula birders late in August. The City of Pacific Grove decided to extend the golf course around the pond, which would involve a concrete wall or culvert. Capt. D.W. Sinclair of the 12th Coast Guard District replied to our inquiry on Sept. 23rd, advising us that the Coast Guard "will do its part to conserve natural resources on Coast Guard property" (which also borders Crespi Pond). We shall try to keep watch on this proposed development.

A shocking, almost incredible bureaucratic edict which merited earlier comment in this column was issued some weeks ago by the U.S. Bureau of Public Roads: Remove every tree four inches or more in diameter within 30 feet of a federally financed highway or access road! A very small

number of reckless or unfortunate drivers have driven off these roads and hit trees instead of shrubs or fenees. As cries of horror and protest rose across country this sweeping order was slightly modified. But we shudder to think what highway administrators—and planners—may still inflict upon us. Our President has just been obliged to sign a federal highways bill which he decried for its lack of scenic provisions.

Now back to the Bay—and the equally abused Delta. The Sierra Club's September *Yodeler* carries a fine summary—"The Dessieated Delta"—of painstaking studies by Peter Zars and Ed Royce, reported by Cieely Christy. Today's press (Oct. 2nd) confirms plans of the State and Federal water authorities to develop a San Joaquin Drain to spill into the Delta at Antioch, regardless of consequences to recreation, sanitation and fisheries. *Department of Fish and Game water quality recommendations adopted by these master water-planners in 1965 have been left out of the Peripheral Canal Plans.* Perhaps we should just add it all to the Los Angeles City Limits! of course, San Joaquin farmers will divert water along the way, but their spokesmen insist their agricultural waste waters won't harm anything.

*Flash!* And it is a brilliant, sunrise-light that will warm and cheer conservationists in the United States, our Canadian neighbors—and even friends abroad. On this eventful October 2nd President Johnson signed into law the 58,000-aere Redwoods National Park bill. Let us thank and congratulate all who have worked toward this—and be grateful that we can have *redwoods* as well as bombs! We only wish it could have been more. —PAUL F. COVEL, *Conservation Chairman.*

### SOUTH BAY REFUGE GAINS SUPPORT

The campaign to establish a federal wildlife preserve in the South San Francisco Bay Area is gaining congressional support, according to *The Argus* of Fremont-Newark. The San Francisco Baylands Planning, Conservation and National Wildlife Refuge Committee announced at a recent meeting that Congressman Don Edwards, D.-San Jose, is in the process of drafting legislation to provide for the creation of a national preserve.

Arthur Ogilvie, Santa Clara County planner and secretary for the committee, received a letter from Edwards, who said he will introduce a bill soon in the House of Representatives setting aside a congressional appropriation to establish the reserve. Edwards also has written to Secretary of the Interior Stewart Udall asking that the California Clapper Rail and the Red-bellied Harvest Mouse—two wildlife species which inhabit Fremont wetlands and other bay shores—be declared "endangered species." This would open up potential sources of federal funds to finance purchase of lands for a preserve, according to *The Argus* article. Funds from the federal duck stamps are not enough to purchase the high-priced land and therefore a congressional appropriation is needed.



A gift of remembrance was made to Audubon Canyon Ranch:  
*In Memory of:* Joseph M. Henry ..... *Gift of:* Douglas and Frances McCallum  
—DR. ALBERT BOLES, *Sanctuary & Memorial Fund Chairman*

KENT ISLAND SUCCESS STORY

The fund drive to save Kent Island in Bolinas Lagoon was brought to a successful conclusion in October—just 11½ years after it was started, according to its Chairman, Dr. Martin Griffin, Jr. of Kentfield. Three organizations: Audubon Canyon Ranch, The Nature Conservancy, and Marin Conservation League combined forces to raise the total of \$91,626 necessary to pay for the 110-acre island. This amount included principal, interest, legal and title fees. Dr. Griffin emphasized that some \$8,000 in outstanding pledges remain to be collected and this would be handled by Audubon Canyon Ranch.

Of the total raised jointly by the three organizations, \$73, 626 was accounted for by private contributions; a \$15,000 contribution was made by Audubon Canyon Ranch, and a \$3,000 contribution came from Marin Conservation League. The three organizations worked together on the fund drive and each paid for mailings and expenses so that nearly every dollar raised went for land purchase. Dr. Griffin thanks the thousands of contributors in the Bay Area who helped achieve the goal so rapidly. He praises the volunteers who worked on the drive, particularly his committee comprising Miss Erline Hevel of San Francisco, treasurer; Admiral H. Bramston-Cook of Belvedere, Mrs. Rhoda Boyd of Ross, John Hamilton of Bolinas, Mrs. Phillip Kearney of Mill Valley and Mr. Huey Johnson, regional director of The Nature Conservancy.

The purchase of Kent Island by the conservation groups was precipitated by a potentially disastrous plan for intensive commercial development of Kent Island by the Bolinas Harbor District. Biological studies now underway show that the plan would have destroyed the major feeding grounds for wildlife in the lagoon. Shortly after the island was purchased it was gift-deeded to the County of Marin and is now the Kent Island County Park, a wildlife preserve. Marin County Supervisors have been presented with a document showing that the financial obligation of \$85,000 on the island has been paid in full, and that the county will not be left holding the bag as harbor district officials prophesied last year.

The tremendous local and national interest in saving Kent Island indicates that the primary value of Bolinas Lagoon is not commercial development but the preservation of its wildlife, nearly extinct elsewhere in the Bay Area, for human enjoyment. The Audubon Canyon Ranch “heron tree” Sanctuary on Bolinas Lagoon has become one of the most popular natural wildlife attractions on the Pacific Coast with 20,000 visitors this past spring. This indicates the potential for a tourist industry for West Marin if it is not destroyed by over-development of the lagoon, freeways and urbanization.

The three organizations will now concentrate on stopping pollution of the lagoon and a master plan that will preserve vital tidelands and open water with anti-siltation measures and minimal dredging.

### FIELD OBSERVATIONS

September 8—*Red-eyed Vireo*, Solitary Vireo, Warbling Vireo, Hutton's Vireo, *Summer Tanager* and Western Tanager at Rodeo Lagoon—Val and Bob DaCosta.

September 10—Two *American Redstarts* and *Black-throated Blue Warbler* at Rodeo Lagoon—Val DaCosta. On the same date a warbler wave met the Golden Gate Audubon field trip in Lincoln Park, Alameda, where an *American Redstart* was foraging with other warblers in a birch tree. At lunch time in Alameda Beach Park by the Bay a *Parasitic Jaeger* chased a Forster's Tern. On the Packrat Trail in Tilden Park, Berkeley, Ruth and Ted Dement found a Hermit Warbler.

September 17—A *Royal Tern* near Dumbarton Bridge—Hans Johansen.

September 20—A Nashville Warbler came to backyard sprinkler in Oakland hills, and on September 23 and 26 a Lincoln's Sparrow was feeding near small pools in Tilden Park Nature Area—Vi Homem.

September 23—A Skua was reported near Inverness Motel, Tomales Bay, by Gerard Brady.

September 24—at Lawson's Landing (Dillon Beach) at high tide Hans Johansen observed eight Knots, two Golden Plovers, Elegant Terns and a flock of *Semipalmated Sandpipers*. (See Pough's illustration and description of this species).

September 26-28—Bill Pursell observed an *Indigo Bunting* at his feeder in San Rafael.

October 5—Hundreds of White Pelicans wheeled in the sky above hundreds of Audubon and Sierra Club hikers in Coyote Hills Regional Park.

From our seagoing correspondent, W. Patrick Dunbar, aboard the U.S.N.S. *Perseus* in the Pacific: "There has been a very noticeable lack of albatross this voyage. They were very plentiful as we left San Francisco September 18, but rapidly dwindled in numbers until September 22, when I saw the last one so far this voyage. Yesterday morning (Sept. 27), sky overcast, some wind, observed a swift flying about. Against the gray sky it appeared very dark; it had a deeply forked tail. This morning (Sept. 28) about 0700, weather stormy, heavy rain, wind 38 knots—I was clearing the drain in a life boat so the rain water could run out and I discovered the remains of a swift washing back and forth under the floorboards. Also this morning, 0745, nearest land Wake Island about 700 miles to the south, an owl flying fairly close to the water's surface, zoomed up and flopped into a life boat; it brought to mind a Hawk Owl. I dashed below for my movie camera, but it had gone when I returned. Have seen one Storm Petrel and a few Shearwaters. The latter were following a large school of porpoise."

### DECLINE IN CLAPPER RAIL POPULATION

From *The Western Tanager* bulletin of the Los Angeles Audubon Society October:

"It's usually more glamorous to observe and report rare birds than it is to make significant quantitative observations. Ralph Mancke took advantage of an extreme high tide at Seal Beach marshes to count the Clapper Rails on September first. There were *thirteen*. This may seem a large number to those of us who treasure every sighting, but, compared with the more than 200 seen by Arnold Small at the same place and under similar tide conditions on January 10, 1959, it is disturbing. The Light-footed Rail (our So. California race of the Clapper Rail) is a resident of the tidal marshes, so that season of count is not a major factor, and we must also realize that these counts are not absolute, but the great divergence in numbers cannot be questioned. The Light-footed Rail is much reduced and is in imminent danger of extinction because of loss of its tidal marsh habitat. I count only eight tidal marshes with habitat favorable for these rails (two of these are scheduled for development and others are marginal because of partial development.) These eight marshes (or six as they may soon be) contrast with more than twenty virgin salicornia marshes a hundred (or even fifty) years ago. The Fish & Wildlife Service is aware of this situation, but is helpless unless the Light-footed Rail is put on the *endangered species* list.—G. SHUMWAY SUFFEL."

### NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members to Golden Gate Audubon Society: From *Berkeley*—Jean Alsworth, Mrs. Carrie Carrol, David Koven; From *Oakland*—Mr. & Mrs. Melvin Blomquist, Sally Malarkey, Joan Parkhurst, Mr. & Mrs. G. T. Richey, Mrs. Katherine Saxman, Mr. & Mrs. Maurice Smith, Edward Scholtz; From *San Francisco*—Milton Clark Blake, Jr., D. N. Christensen, Dr. & Mrs. M. W. Debenham, Robert Habbersett, E. A. Hatcher, Daniel Kane, Jr., Robert Kovacic, Frank Marx, Virginia Moore, Mrs. M. L. Mueller, Dorothy Oliver, Rexford Palmer, Mrs. Gordon Powell, Dr. & Mrs. C. DuPertuis, William Roten, Iris M. Tory; From *Burlingame*—Mrs. Michael Stickney; From *Castro Valley*—Miss Patrieia Ball; From *El Sobrante*—Ivo Rie; From *Kensington*—Mrs. Roberta Gertner; From *Orinda*—John Post, Mrs. John Sabin; From *Pleasant Hill*—Mrs. Elizabeth Berger; From *Richmond*—Gerrie Kretzman; From *San Leandro*—Mr. & Mrs. Robert Hilton.

From *Angwin*—Mr. P. L. Howe; From *Belvedere*—Mrs. James Elliott; From *Berkeley*—Dr. & Mrs. Robert Fitch, Judith Hartman, Helen Underwood, Peter R. B. Ward; From *El Cerrito*—Eugenia Hull, Joyee Perry; From *Hayward*—Eugene Mott; From *Oakland*—William Fletcher; From *Piedmont*—Mrs. S. D. Bechtel, Jr., From *Pleasant Hill*—Douglas Kerr; From *Richmond*—Mrs. Leigh Robinson; From *Salinas*—Mrs. George Waters; From *San Francisco*—Wayne Bryant, Beverly Callahan, George and Nina Dusheck, Dorothee Haken, MD, Samuel Hlazard, Helen Ludlow, Josephine Madden, Phillip Miles, Dr. & Mrs. John Rognas, William Staver, Mrs. Ruth Stout.—MRS. ZELLA CUSHMAN, *Membership Secretary*.



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## GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

Established January 25, 1917 A Branch of the National Audubon Society since 1948

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Canyon Ranch Film Crmn.	Mrs. Bonnie Smith	555 Dewey Blvd., San Francisco 94116	681-7635

Send address changes to Membership Secretary promptly; Post Office does not forward THE GULL. Monthly meetings second Thursday 7:30 p.m. Joint membership, Local & National \$10 per year, includes AUDUBON MAGAZINE and THE GULL. Subscription to THE GULL separately \$2 per year. Subscription to THE CYGNET, bulletin for children edited by Mrs. Nickelsburg, \$1 per year.

The *Gull* deadline is the first of the month for the following month.